

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PCH-02 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P;STAFF:EB

APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

DEPT OF THE TREASURY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO CONUSSAGE 7AF

CINCPAC

COAST GUARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COAST GUARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS:PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRBARY 5 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ;NDOCHINA

AT FEB 4 ATLANTA NEWS CONFERENCE, PRES WAS ASKED WHAT
OPTIONS IN VN IF CONGRESS DOES NOT VOTE SUPPLEMENTAL
OR GO ALONG WITH FY 76 REQUEST FOR MIL AID. REPLIED
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HE BELIEVES CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE FUNDS REQUESTED
AND, IF THEY DO, HE HAS NO NEED TO LOOK AT OTHER
OPTIONS BECAUSE VIETS WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEND SELVES
(NYT). PRES DECLINED TO SAY WHAT HE WOULD DO IF

CONGRESS DID NOT PROVIDE FURTHER MIL AID (SHABECOFF, NYT; KILPATRICK, WP).

AFTER APPEARING AT HFAC CLOSED SESSION, SECSTATE SAID HE THOUGHT CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE PRES' 300 MILLION DOLS REQUEST DESPITE CURRENT COOL RESPONSE FROM LAWMAKERS. REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT CONGRESS HAD ALREADY APPROVED ONE BILLION IN MIL AID TO SVN,BUT FUNDED ONLY 700 MILLION (PHINQ).

SEN SCHWEIKER CALLED ON PRES TO WITHDRAW EXTRA AID REQUEST, CITED GVN CLOSING OF FIVE NEWSPAPERS AS "ANOTHER REASON" WHY US MUST STOP BEING THIEU'S "SUGAR DADDY" (PHINQ). BYRD (W. VA.) AND DOMENICI THOUGHT

GVN ARRESTS AND CLOSING OF OPPOSITION PAPERS COULD PROVOKE NEW RESISTANCE TO PRES' REQUEST (AP, SUN).

GVN BACKS OFF CHARGES THAT MANY AS 20 PUBLISHERS, EDITORS AND REPORTERS COMMUNIST AGENTS, RELEASES HALF OF THEM. GOVT SPOKESMAN SAYS INFO MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE REPORTING NUMBER OF COMMUNIST AGENTS WORKING FOR SAIGON NEWSPAPERS WAS "MISUNDERSTANDING" (AP, SUN). GVN SPOKESMAN SAYS TEN OF 19 NEWSMEN ARRESTED HAVE BEEN FREED, BUT SOURCES REPORT NINE OTHER JOURNALISTS ARRESTED. POLITICIANS AND PRESS IN SVN CONDEMN CRACKDOWN; PUBLISHERS' ASSN ORDERS DAY'S SUSPENSION OF PUBLICATION AS PROTEST (PHINQ).

NYT REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT 17 JOURNALISTS ARRESTED AS "COMMUNIST AGENTS," WHILE ABOUT DOZEN OTHERS DETAINED, QUESTIONED, RELEASED. CLAIMS MANY NEWSMEN HAVE GONE INTO HIDING. REV THANH'S MOVEMENT DENOUNCED ACTIONS AGAINST PRESS, AS DID LEADING RIGHTIST OPPOSITION DEPUTY WHO SAID US SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIEU REGIME THAT HAS TRAMPLED ON RIGHTS. OPPOSITION FORCES, WITH SIGHTS SET ON US UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS, RECKON THEY CAN EITHER FORGE AHEAD OR PROVOKE CRACKDOWN. IN PAST THIEU WAS MORE ADEPT AT DEALING WITH OPPONENTS, BUT LATELY HAS HAD DOMESTIC PROBLEMS ON SEVERAL FRONTS AT TIME OF STEPPED-UP COMMUNIST ATTACKS. GVN TRYING TO SNUFF OUT MINOR REBELLION BY HOA HAO IN SEVERAL DELTA PROVINCES, WHERE SOME MEMBERS OF SECT'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCE SAID TO BE INVOLVED IN RISING BANDITRY. IN TAY NINH, CAO DAI SECT HAS ISSUED "NEUTRALIST" APPEAL FOR PEACE THAT HAS ALSO UNSETTLED GOVT. IN ADDITION, TET SOON DUE; LUNAR NEW YEAR HAS BEEN NERVOUS TIME FOR GVN EVER SINCE 1968 OFFENSIVE.

WP'S MCCOMBS (ALSO IN GLOBE) SEES ARREST OF JOURNALISTS AS APPARENT CONCERTED EFFORT TO CRUSH ELEMENTS OF INTERNAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION. NOTES FOUR NEWSMEN RELEASED SO FAR HAD NO COMMENTS FOR RECORD, AND CONTENTS MOST OF OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT NEWSMEN ARE LIVING IN FEAR AND FINDING OTHER PLACES TO SLEEP THAN HOMES. TRACES CURRENT CRACKDOWN TO PRINTING OF POLITICAL CHARGES AGAINST THIEU IN NINE DAILIES SUNDAY. QUOTES HIGH GOVT OFFICIAL THAT MORE ARRESTS CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED. LISTS JOURNALISTS ARRESTED.

FIGHTING CONTINUED RELATIVELY LIGHT THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. MIL ANALYSTS EXPECT LULL IN COMMUNIST LIMITED OFFENSIVE TO END SOON WITH SHARP INCREASE IN FIGHTING (MCCOMBS). GVN COMMAND ANNOUNCED COMMUNIST ROCKETS HIT TAY NINH, WOUNDED SIX (NYT). NYT'S MARKHAM IN TAY NINH DESCRIBES GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST ROAD IN, AND EERIE STILLNESS OF TOWN HIT BY ROCKETS AND SHELLS FOR PAST SEVEN WEEKS. ROCKETING STOPPED SIX DAYS AGO, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHY OR IF WILL RESUME. QUOTES POLICEMAN WHO EXPECTS GROUND ATTACK ON CITY WITHIN TWO DAYS SINCE VC SCATTERED LEAFLETS WARNING RESIDENTS MAKE NO PREPARATIONS FOR TET. NOTES WHEN ROCKETS HIT, PEOPLE SOUGHT REFUGE NEAR "SACRED GROUND" OF CAO DAI HQ THAT NVA AND VC AVOID SHELLING SINCE THEY DO NOT WANT TO ALIENATE LOCALLY POWERFUL SECT.

MARKHAM DESCRIBES CAO DAI HQ WITH RELIGIOUS
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FUNCTIONARIES IN WHITE ROBES ON FIRST DAY OF TET. REPORTS SECT HQ ISSUED SOMEWHAT "NEUTRALIST" APPEAL, IN MIDST OF ROCKET ATTACKS, THAT GVN AND COMMUNISTS SIT DOWN LIKE BROTHERS TO HALT WAR; APPEAL ALSO ASKED TAY NINH BE EXEMPTED FROM HOSTILITIES. NOTES NEITHER SIDE RESPONDED, AND IN SAIGON SOME OFFICIALS SAW APPEAL AS SIGN OF DEFEATISM AMONG "FAIRLY" ANTI-COMMUNIST CAO DAI; OTHERS SEE HAND OF PRO-VC FACTION IN SECT'S SPLINTERED LEADERSHIP. BELIEVES CAO DAI POLITICAL FACTIONS COULD BECOME IMPORTANT IF NVA AND VC SUCCEED IN ENCIRCLING TAY NINH. RECOUNTS UNSUCCESSFUL GVN ATTEMPT TO RETAKE TOP OF MOUNTAIN THAT OVERLOOKS CITY. POINTS OUT FEW BELIEVE QUIET WILL LAST FOR LONG.

AP (WASHINGTON) QUOTES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THAT INDONESIA HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT NORTH AND SOUTH VN ON DIVIDING SOUTH ALONG DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN VC AND 6VN. ASKED IF SUCH DIVISION FEASIBLE, HAK SAID US ALWAYS PREPARED TOGETHER WITH GVN TO SEE PEACE MAINTAINED ALONG DEMARCATION LINES" (BALTO N-A 2/4).

INSURGENT GUNNERS FIRE AT GKR BLDGS IN ATTACK ON PP

THAT LEFT 12 WOUNDED, ACCORDING POLICE; NATL ASSEMBLY AND MINISTRY OF REFUGEES HIT FROM EAST MEKONG BANK WHERE FANK ENGAGED IN HEAVY COMBAT TWO MILES FROM CAPITAL. FIELD REPORTS SAID REBELS STEPPED UP PRESSURE ALONG PP NORTHERN DEFENSE LINE IN WHAT COULD BE START OF PUSH INTO HEAVILY-POPULATED AREA AROUND HWAY 5. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED AROUND SEVENTH DIV HQ NORTH OF CITY (AP, SUN; WP). REBELS ALSO INCREASE ATTACKS IN SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN

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PROVINCES, ESPECIALLY NEAR TAKEO. MIL SOURCES SAID GOVT WILL RELEASE 405 CIVILIAN PRISONERS FOR IMMEDIATE INDUCTION INTO ARMY (WP). PORT SOURCES DISCLOSED REBELS HAD ATTACKED CONVOY RETURNING TO SVN AT POINT 43 MILES SW OF PP, SANK OR DAMAGED SIX VESSELS (PHINQ). TANKER, THREE TUGS, FOUR BARGES AND TWO NAVY ESCORT BOATS REPORTED EITHER SUNK OR BADLY DAMAGED BY MINES AND HEAVY WEAPONS UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRE (WP). NYT'S SCHANBERG AT PP QUOTES US AND KHMER SOURCES THAT CONVOY "TORN APART," MOSTLY BY MINES. NOTES "BIGGEST SHIPPING LOSS OF WAR" RAISES CONCERN AMONG AMERICANS OVER FUTURE CONVOYS. FIRST MAJOR USE OF MINES BY REBELS NOT OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, BUT SOURCES SAY FIRST REPORTS FAIRLY POSITIVE. SOME ANALYSTS SPECULATE THAT MINES CAME FROM FRESH CHINESE SUPPLIES PROVIDED THROUGH NVN. POINTS OUT THAT MEKONG HAS BEEN ONE OF PRIMARY TARGETS IN REBEL DRIVE IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO STRANGLE PP. QUOTES SHIPPING SOURCES THAT ANOTHER SIZABLE CONVOY HAS ASSEMBLED IN SVN WATERS FOR RUN UP MEKONG IN NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT MINING MAY DELAY SCHEDULE. COMMENTS THAT INSURGENTS MAY HAVE PLACED MINES TO HIT NEXT CONVOY, BUT POOR TIMING LED TO DESTRUCTION OF EMPTY SHIPS. DETAILS SKETCHY, BUT TANKER, THREE UGS, AND FOUR BARGES AS WELL AS POSSIBLY SOME SMALLER BOATS REPORTEDLY SUNK.

CDN'S TAMARKIR IN SAIGON (1/29) NOTES CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY AMEMBASSY SHOW HANOI BELIEVES IT CAN DEFEAT SVN. CITES AMEMBASSY SOURCE THAT US MIL AID CUTBACK CONVINCED HANOI IT COULD ACHIEVE MORE IN 1975 THAN EXPECTED EARLIER, BY INCREASING MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST GVN.

SAYS DOCUMENTS DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF US INTERVENTION, BUT URGE NVA, VC OPERATE WITH CAUTION; PREDICT LESS AID WILL FORCE GVN TO SQUEEZE MORE RESOURCES OUT OF PEOPLE, THUS INCREASE POPULAR DISCONTENT WITH THIEU. BUT FOR NOW, DOCUMENTS CONCEDE THIEU GOVT TOO STRONG TO DEAL WITH THROUGH C-F MECHANISMS, LEAVING

STEPPED-UP WAR ONLY COURSE.

ALSO, SELF-CRITICISM IN DOCUMENTS ADMITS WEAKNESS OF LOCAL FORCES, ASSASSINATION TEAMS, URBAN NETWORKS AND GUERRILLA FORCES, AND SUPPLY SHORTAGES SOME AREAS; CONCEDES GVN CONTROLS POPULATED, PROSPEROUS AREAS; NOTES SOME DISATISFACTION AGAINST VC CADRES BY "UNCOOPERATIVE" PEOPLE IN LIBERATED AREAS, "WHO FEAR REVOLUTION."

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TAMARKIR NOTES SPECULATION AMEMBASSY RELEASED DOCUMENTS, FIRST IN TWO YEARS, TO COINCIDE WITH PRES' REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL.

2. CHINA

SEISMOLOGISTS IN US, TOKYO AND SWEDEN REPORT HEAVY EARTHQUAKE -- ABOUT 7.5 ON RICHTER SCALE -- SHOOK HEAVILY POPULATED AREA OF LIAONING PROVINCE TUESDAY (WP, CSM).

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART OFFICIALS REPORT NEARLY 300,000 HAVE SEEN PRC ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT. MOST VISITORS STILL MUST WAIT IN LINES (WP).

AFP (PEKING) QUOTES SOURCES IN CAPITAL THAT LIU SHAO-CHI IS NOT DEAD AND IS CONTINUING TO "CORRECT HIMSELF BY WORK" SOMEWHERE IN CHINA (WP).

PEOPLE'S DAILY SAYS HRC HAS DEVELOPED NEW THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE THAT PROMISES POSSIBLE NEW ENERGY SOURCE. CONTENTS THAT OF FOUR SETS OF SWITCHES USED, ONE WAS RETRIEVED FROM JUNK PILE AND RENOVATED, AND OTHER THREE WERE BOUGHT FROM JUNK-COLLECTING COMPANY (REUTER, SUN).

NCNA REPORTED TUESDAY THAT LARGEST HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION EVER BUILT IN CHINA HAS GONE INTO FULL OPERATION IN NW REGION NEAR LANCHOW (UPI, JOC).

WP (PEKING) ITEM SAYS PRC LEADERSHIP HAS LAUNCHED NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF PLA IN BID TO IMPROVE ARMY'S TARNISHED PUBLIC IMAGE. APPEAL, IN FORM OF RECENT CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE/STATE COUNCIL CIRCULAR, ASKS PEOPLE SUPPORT ARMY; SEEN, IN PART, AS RESPONSE TO DEMOBILIZED SERVICEMEN'S COMPLAINTS THEY HAVE BEEN BADLY TREATED.

SUN'S ED WU, IN HK, NOTES PRIDE NCNA HAS TAKEN IN PUBLICIZING CHINA'S NEW HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION AT LIUCHIAHSIA AS BRILLIANT VICTORY FOR SELF-RELIANCE.

SAYS DAMS DEMONSTRATE PEKING'S ENGINEERING ABILITY
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TO DESIGN, BUILD AND EQUIP LARGE HYDRAULIC PROJECTS.

3. JAPAN

WP SPECIAL (TOKYO) REPORTS SOVIET AMB TROYANOVSKY CALLED ON LDP VP SHIINA MONDAY TO URGE JAPAN ABANDON BID FOR TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA. CITES MAINICHI THAT SHIINA REJECTED SUGGESTION ON GROUNDS "PEACE PACT IS INDISPENSIBLE TO PUT AN END TO THE LONG UNHAPPY HISTORY OF JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS." NOTES MIYAZAWA MADE NO PROGRESS ON PEACE PACT TALKS IN MOSCOW; LATER DISCLOSED IN TOKYO THAT SOVIETS ASKED JAPAN SIGN FRIENDSHIP TREATY, BUT PUT ASIDE NORTHERN ISLANDS ISSUE. ADDS CHINA MAKING BEST OF STALLED US-JAPAN-SOVIET SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT TALKS BY STEPPING UP OIL SALES TO JAPAN, PREPARING TO SELL GAS SOON.

JOC (TOKYO) SAYS CHINA AGREES TO SETTLE SOME TRADE WITH JAPAN IN DOLLARS, FOR FIRST TIME SINCE TRADE RESUMED AFTER 1949 REVOLUTION; AGREED IN JANUARY TO PAY JAPANESE EXPORTER ONE MILLION DOL FOR POLYETHYLENE IMPORTS, NOW AGREE TO PAY 200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FERTILIZER IMPORTS BEING DISCUSSED IN PEKING, BECAUSE JAPANESE TRADERS RELUCTANT TO GRANT DEFERRED PAYMENT TERMS ON RENMINBI CONTRACTS. REMINBI FLOATING, AND TRADERS WANT DOLLARS AS HEDGE AGAINST EXCHANGE LOSSES.

JOC NOTES STRONG TREND IN CHEMICAL SALES, EARNINGS, HIGHLIGHTED BY REPORTS TUESDAY OF SUBSTANTIAL 1974 EARNINGS BY SUMITOMO CHEMICAL; 1.6 BILLION SALES (UP 43 PERCENT OVER 1973), 29.7 MILLION NET INCOME (UP 60 PERCENT).

NYT SAYS HEALTH OFFICIALS IMPOSE TEMPORARY BAN ON HAM, COLD CUTS SERVED BY INTL INFLIGHT CATERING, ANCHORAGE, WHOSE CONTAMINATED MEALS BLAMED BY DANES FOR MASS FOOD POISONING ON JAL FLIGHT TO COPENHAGEN MONDAY.

WSJ TORRANCE (2/4) CITES TOYOTA ANNOUNCEMENT ISAO MAKINO ELECTED PRES OF US SALES OUTLET, SUCCEEDING IWAO KODAIRA WHO RETURNS TO JAPAN FOR NEW JOB WITH PARENT
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COMPANY.

4. AUSTRALIA

JOC (LONDON) CITES AUSSIE SHIPPERS' COUNCIL SPOKESMAN, IN SYDNEY, BLAMING GOA FOR DECLINE IN TRADE TO AND FROM AUSTRALIA, WHICH COULD REDUCE EMPLOYMENT IN SHIPPING, LONGSHORING.

JOC (LONDON) SAYS TRADE MIN CREAN WENT HOME AFTER THREE WEEKS ABROAD WITH LITTLE TO ENCOURAGE AUSSIE BEEF PRODUCERS. CREAN SAID US MORE GENEROUS THAN JAPAN, EEC; AT LEAST AGREES TO CONTINUE TALKS TO GUARANTEE AUSSIE SHARE OF BEEF MARKET.

5. MALAYSIA

JOC (KL) CITES BANK NEGERA ANNOUNCING RELAXATION OF TIGHT MONEY POLICIES TO STIMULATE ECONOMY; BUT GOV ISMAIL SAID BANKS EXPECTED TO FINANCE ONLY PRODUCTIVE VENTURES, ESPECIALLY THOSE MANAGED BY MALAYS, AND TO DISCOURAGE CREDIT FOR SPECULATION, CONSUMPTION.

6. PHILIPPINES

REUTER (MANILA) CITES POLICE SPOKESMAN THAT PHIL TROOPS KILLED DISSIDENT LEADER TEOFILO VALENZUEL, ALIAS COMMANDER RICO, IN CLASH IN NORTH LUZON LAST WEEK. RICO BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR AMBUSH MURDER OF THREE USN OFFICERS NEAR MANILA LAST YEAR (WP).

NYT (MANILA) SAYS ENRILE TOOK ACTION TUESDAY AGAINST 12 ARMY MEN ACCUSED BY CHURCH GROUPS OF TORTURING POLITICAL DETAINEES. FIVE OFFICERS GO BEFORE PRETRIAL BOARD WEIGHING GENERAL COURT MARTIAL CHARGES, SEVEN PRIVATES DISMISSED FROM SERVICE. RC ARCHBISHOP SIN THANKED DEF SEC FOR PROMPT ACTION.

UPI (MANILA) CITES PNA REPORT THAT GOP STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF PEGGING PHIL SUGAR AT 24 CENTS LB
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ON WORLD MARKET FOR CONTRACTS OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS (JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

S-N'S WILSON (2/3) DECLARES WE SHALL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REDISCOVER WHAT MILLION MEN FOUGHT TO PREVENT, IF SVN NOW GOES DOWN DRAIN: COMMUNIST VICTORY WOULD ALTER SEA POLITICAL BALANCE ALARMINGLY, ENDANGER LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF COMMUNISM'S ENEMIES, AND WOULD CONFIRM US RETREAT FROM CONDITIONS SERIES OF PRESIDENTS SOUGHT TO CREATE

IN WESTERN PACIFIC IN THREE WARS. FEELS FOREBODING OF
ADMIN SPOKESMEN ASKING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL THUS EXPLAINED.

BUT INSTEAD OF APPEALING TO "HONOR" OR "COMMITMENT,"
SUGGESTS CONGRESS WEIGH COLLATERAL EFFECTS OF HANOI
VICTORY, SUCH AS LESS OBVIOUS ONE THAT NEGATIVE VOTE
ON AID WOULD AT LONG LAST DISSIPATE REASON FOR US
INTERVENTION, IN KOREA, OR FORMOSA. PERHAPS THIS WOULD
LEAD TO EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WITH PRC,
"FOR WHATEVER THAT MAY PROVE TO BE WORTH"; BUT COLLAPSE
OF US ASIA POLICY WOULD BE NOTED BY ALL GOVTS THAT
DEPEND ON US FOR SECURITY. SUGGESTS CONGRESS SHOULD
NOT SIMPLY RESPOND TO PUBLIC ABHORRENCE OF FURTHER
INVOLVEMENT IN VN, BUT EVALUATE CONSEQUENCES AND WEIGH
COST OF NOT GIVING UP YET BEFORE CASTING EMOTIONAL VOTE
TO REPUDIATE POLICIES OF PAST.

NYT'S ANTHONY LEWIS (2/3) NOTES CURIOUS THING IS HAPPENING:
WARNING OF POSSIBLE RIGHT-WING REACTION TO FALL OF SAIGON
IS BECOMING THREAT TO CREATE ONE. SAYS THAT IS UNMISTAKABLE
MESSAGE OF ADMIN CAMPAIGN FOR MORE INDOCHINA MIL AID.
CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED WORDS OF PRES, VP IMPLY THREAT
TO BLAME DEMS IF CONGRESS REFUSES TO INCREASE AID AND SAIGON
FALLS, AND ROCKEFELLER'S "CRUDE TONE" IN FIRST BIG SPEECH
AS VP EVOKED MEMORIES OF ARGUMENT OVER "WHO LOST CHINA."
OBSERVES HAK SHOULD KNOW PRICE US PAID FOR THAT "SHAMEFUL
ADVENTURE IN POLITICAL SCAPEGOATING." INSISTS EVENTS IN
CHINA WERE BEYOND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF US, AND WE ONLY
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HURT OURSELVES BY PRETENDING OTHERWISE FOR 20 YEARS.
WOULD BE "GROTESQUE WRONG" FOR HAK TO LET HIS OLD TALE
OF RIGHT WING RECRIMINATION OVER VN BE PERVERTED INTO
CAMPAIGN TO THREATEN CONGRESS. AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY
INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS IN VN, BUT OVERWHELMING
MAJORITY NOW REJECTS NOTION OF PERMANENT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SAIGON, AND MOST KNOW WE CAN NOT LOSE VN ANY MORE
THAN CHINA.

LEWIS IN EARLIER COLUMN (1/30) FELT ANYONE AWARE OF WHAT
US LEADERS SAID ON WAY INTO VN MUST HAVE SENSE OF DEJA VU;
WHAT IS FAMILIAR IS "SELF-DECEPTION, THE CONFUSION OF
OBJECTIVES." PRES ARGUES US CREDIBILITY - ESSENTIAL TO
NATIONAL SECURITY - IS AT STAKE; BUT NINE YEARS AGO
ASST SEC DEF MCNAUGHTON, IN SECRET MEMO, CONCEDED OUR
OBJECTIVE IN VN WAS NOT TO SAVE FRIEND BUT "AVOID
HUMILIATION."

LEWIS REVIEWED PAST OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS BY US LEADERS,
REFUTED BY EVENTS, AND SUGGESTED THERE WERE MANY POINTS
ON "PATH OF ILLUSION AND DEATH" AT WHICH US, VNAMESE
INTERESTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SERVED BY LETTING GO. AGREED

NATIONALIST-COMMUNIST GOVT WOULD HAVE EMERGED; HOWEVER,

FELT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN INDEPENDENT OF CHINA AND SOVIETS, AND HELPFUL TO STABILITY. BUT USG PURSUED "MIRAGE OF MILITARY VICTORY," AND NOW MADMEN PLANT BOMBS TO CHANGE INDOCHINA POLICY. SUGGESTED WAY TO CHANGE UNREASONING POLICY IS BY REASON -- "AND THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF THAT IF CONGRESS RESISTS MANIPULATION AND FEAR."

GRADY WRITES IN PHILA BULLETIN (2/2) THAT JFK, LBJ, RN AND NOW FORD HAVE HAD FEAR OF BEING BLAMED FOR LOSING VN, ESPECIALLY BY RIGHT-WING JINGOISTS, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY PRES IS "PANHANDLING CONGRESS" FOR 300 MILLION. SEES RHETORIC OF "VIETNAM CHARITY CAMPAIGN" AS "LAST BRUTAL CYNICISM OF THAT L0-YEAR FARCE". DOUBTS CONGRESS WILL BUY "THIS USED WAR." SAYS REALISTS, LIKE ASPIN, TELL TRUTH: VN GOING DOWN DRAIN ANYWAY. THUS ONLY PURPOSE OF WAR, IN END, IS TO PROTECT EGO, MACHO AND HONOR OF US POLITICIANS.
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CSM'S STROUT (1/31) WRITES ABOUT "WAR THAT WON'T END." CITES RECENT SPEECH TO ANTI-WAR CHURCH GROUP BY SVN'S NGO CONG DUC, WHO ARGUED TIME HAS COME FOR "THIRD FORCE," SINCE PRES' SUPPLEMENTAL WON'T SAVE GVN. SAYS TO SKEPTICAL NEWSMEN PRESENT, DUC SEEMED UNLIKELY CHOICE TO BRING VN PEACE. HE IS CRITIC OF THIEU, BUT NO FIREBRAND; COUSIN IS RC ARCHBISHOP; HE PUBLISHED MORNING SUN UNTIL CLOSED BY GVN, CHAIRED TWO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (INFORMATION, CORRUPTION) UNTIL DEFEATED IN 1971 ELECTION; CALLED FOR US WITHDRAWAL AND GOVT OF "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION," WAS ARRESTED, JAILED, RELEASED AND SLIPPED OUT OF VN AFTER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON. NOW DUC IS TOURING US UNDER AUSPICES OF FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE.

WP RECALLS BASIC US GOAL IN CAMBODIA, IN VIEW OF PRES' MIL AID REQUEST, AS "LIMITED AND SIMPLE ONE" OF KEEPING PP GOVT AFLOAT UNTIL KR INSURGENTS AGREE TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE SOME KIND OF SETTLEMENT. OBSERVES LON NOL AS EAGER TO NEGOTIATE WAY OUT OF HIS COUNTRY'S PREDICTAMENT AS THIEU IS RELUCTANT; FAR FROM RESISTING COMPROMISES CALLED FOR IN INTL ACCORD HE SIGNED, LON NOL OFFERS UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS HIS ADVERSARIES WHO SPURN EVERY OFFER, AND DO NOT WANT TO SHARE POWER, EVEN TEMPORARILY.

NOTES POWERFUL ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE TO PUT CAMBODIA "OUT OF ITS MISERY" BY CUTTING OFF AID RATHER THAN KEEP IT AFLOAT. RELATIVE GEOPOLITICAL UNIMPORTANCE

OF CAMBODIA TO US REINFORCES THIS ARGUMENT; AND SOME

USG OFFICIALS WOULD COUNTENANCE END OF AID ON GROUNDS
LON NOL FALL WOULD NOT GIVE VNAMESE COMMUNISTS
ANY MILITARY ADVANTAGE THEY DO NOT NOW ENJOY, AND
POLITICALLY MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR ADMIN TO WIN
CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SAIGON.

BUT OBSERVES CAMBODIANS SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER THEIR
COUNTRY "TO BE PUT OUT OF ITS MISERY," NOT AMERICANS --
AFTER ALL, THEIR ARMY IS FIGHTING, NOT SURRENDERING, AND
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MANY OF THEM PREFER, OR ACCEPT, MISERY THEY KNOW UNDER
GKR TO ALTERNATIVE OF KR TAKEOVER.

AGREES ADMIN HAS NOT MADE STRONG CASE FOR EVERY PENNY
OF REQUEST, AND FIGURE IS DEBATABLE; BUT SUGGESTS
CONGRESS SHOULD CONSIDER "POLITICAL MESSAGE" IT WISHES
TO SEND. THAT MESSAGE, WP BELIEVES, SHOULD BE THAT US
WILL SUPPORT -- "IN WAYS LIMITED STRICTLY TO MATERIAL
AID AS DISTINCT FROM ACTIVE MILITARY PARTICIPATION" --
TO RESOLVE ITS CONFLICT BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

CSM BELIEVES THIEU, SETTING BACK PRESS FREEDOM,
CHALLENGES US TO SUPPORT HIM, NO MATTER WHAT. BUT
IF INCREASINGLY RESISTANT CONGRESS IS TO APPROVE AID
REQUEST, THIEU WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO REVERSE COURSE,
AND AT LEAST SHOW SOME CONCERN FOR FREE SPEECH, FREE
PRESS AND OTHER FREEDOMS PARIS AGREEMENT SAID WOULD
BE ENSURED IMMEDIATELY AFTER C-F.

8. CHINA

REUTER'S GRIFFITHS, IN PEKING, SAYS FOR CHINESE, NEXT
NEW MOON USHERS IN "YEAR OF THE HARE" AND PLANNED NEW
YEAR LEAP IN CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, WITH
IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE APPARENTLY TAKING SUBSERVIENT
POSITION. WITH MODERATES IN ASCENDANCY OVER RADICALS,
STEADY BUT NOT DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN FOREIGN
RELATIONS EXPECTED.

OIL POTENTIAL SEEMS TO HAVE PLAYED KEY ROLE IN CHINA'S
WILLINGNESS TO ABANDON POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE AND
ACCEPT TRADE DEFICITS IN ORDER TO PURCHASE CAPITAL
EQUIPMENT AND SPEED INDUSTRIALIZATION. BUT PEKING'S
RECENT REQUESTS TO NUMBER OF TRADING PARTNERS TO DEFER
PAYMENTS AND DELIVERIES ARE SEEN AS INDICATION PRESSURE
OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCES IS CAUSING LEADERSHIP
HEADACHES.

YEAR OF HARE SHOULD SEE STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE
DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE. PEKING NOW HAS DIPLOMATIC TIES
WITH 99 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS; BUT 100TH UNLIKELY TO

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BE US. FUTURE OF SINO-US RELATIONS UNPREDICTABLE, BUT
CLEARLY PROGRESS TOWARD FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES IS SLOWER
THAN PEKING WOULD LIKE. HK OBSERVERS DOUBT PRES FORD,
IF HE GOES AHEAD WITH PEKING VISIT, WILL BE ABLE TO
MEET PRC'S PREREQUISITES FOR NORMALIZATION; THESE
ASSUMED TO INCLUDE COMPLETE REMOVAL US MILITARY
COMMITMENT TO ROC. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE026811
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P;STAFF:EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750043-0826
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750287/baaaagpw.tel
Line Count: 556
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
DEPT OF THE TREASURY
MOSCOW
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG

HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS INFO CONUSSAGE
CINCPAC
COAST GUARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006